



## Media Release

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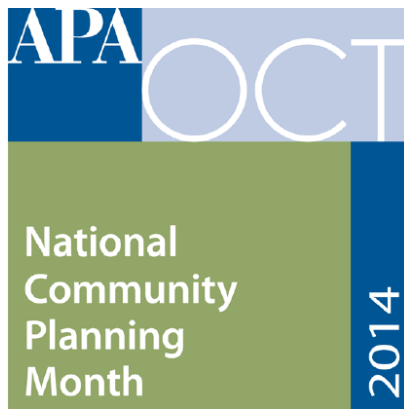
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### City of Temple Celebrates National Community Planning Month



TEMPLE, TX – October 10, 2014 – October is a special time in Central Texas, characterized by cooler temperatures, the “Friday night lights” of high school football, carving pumpkins...and National Community Planning Month. Admittedly, the latter is not even close to being in the same category of familiarity to most folks as those other autumn trademarks, but it is worth highlighting and creating public awareness about the community planning designed to preserve and enhance the quality of life that makes each town unique.

[HEALTH AND PROSPERITY]

What is community planning? It can be summed up as the processes that bring different stakeholder groups together to implement a vision for how a community grows and evolves. As you travel about town and observe the built environment, do you ever ask yourself questions, such as, “How are the development patterns established?” “How do they determine which streets have sidewalks and which do not?” “What are the plans for downtown?”

One of the most common community planning tools is the comprehensive plan, which the City of Temple developed in 2008. It is called “Choices ‘08” and represents a blue print for the city’s future growth, addressing everything from where new roads should be located to how our new buildings should look, and even to how downtown should evolve over the next several decades. The process involved public meetings, as well as engagement with different stakeholder groups and elected officials, who all provided valuable input to create this vision. The plan is still a key reference for City of Temple staff, particularly the Planning Department, when developing

codes, policies or providing staff recommendations related to zoning and other land use cases brought before advisory boards, such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, and City Council. You can find a copy of the plan by going to the following link. ([www.ci.temple.tx.us/index.aspx?NID=892](http://www.ci.temple.tx.us/index.aspx?NID=892)).

Each citizen is encouraged to get involved in a community planning process, whether it is related to participation in the development of a City-initiated plan, attending a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to speak out about proposed development in your community or getting together with neighbors to plan a community garden. National Community Planning Month celebrates what makes each community unique and the individuals, from the average citizen to Planning and Zoning Commissioners, who are committed to improving their communities. For more information about National Community Planning Month, go to: [www.planning.org/ncpm](http://www.planning.org/ncpm) or to [www.templetx.gov/planning](http://www.templetx.gov/planning).

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